

30 May 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Chief, Information and Privacy Division, OIS/DA

FROM:

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT:

Request from the Department of State Historian's Office
for List of Prior Release Estimates

1. You may recall that around 4 April 1984 I passed on to [redacted] a request I had just received from the Historian's Office at the Department of State for a list of all prior release estimates of all sorts--NIE's, SNIE's, special estimates, etc., annotated if possible to indicate whether each estimate had been declassified in toto or released in sanitized form. At that time [redacted] reported that she expected to be able to have such a print-out within a few days. I next spoke to [redacted] about this request soon after she returned from leave, and on 23 April she reported that you would discuss this request with me directly.

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2. On 24 April I explained in response to your query that this request was not from Ambassador Burke's declassification office at State, but from Dr. Neal Petersen, the Department of State's Deputy Historian. I noted that State's History Office wished to have such a list as a guide for estimates that they might reasonably expect CIA to permit them to use in their Foreign Relations of the U.S. series. Neal Petersen had emphasized that while such a list of estimates that CIA has already released to the public under the Freedom of Information Act would be very helpful in their work, it would in no way short-circuit or substitute for the regular procedures that they have always followed in submitting their volumes for CIA review before printing any CIA-originated material.

4. From our conversation 24 April I understand your reluctance to create any open list of prior release documents, and I noted then that it would be perfectly satisfactory to produce a classified list for State's History Office, if this would simplify matters. I understood that you would take up the question with [redacted] and that [redacted] would send me a memorandum with the OIS decision on whether such a list could be prepared.

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5. Since it has now been almost two months since the Department of State's original request, I would be grateful if you could possibly find out when I might expect a decision on this request, so that I can either have a list to pass on to State or let them know that this cannot be done.

/S/

Distribution:

J. Kenneth McDonald

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1 - HS Chrono

1 - C/HS

1 - Subject File (External Requests)

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